CURRENT STATUS OF ALL CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION

What is claimed is:

1. (Withdrawn)

2. (Withdrawn)

3. (Withdrawn)

4. (Withdrawn)

5. (Withdrawn)

6. (Withdrawn)

7. (Previously Amended) A method for eliciting an immune response against *M. tuberculosis* in a subject, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a vector construct that has inserted therein a recombinant polynucleotide containing a plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens operably linked to control sequences suitable for expression in the subject; and

(b) administering said vector construct to the subject whereby said antigens are expressed in the subject at sufficient levels to elicit an immune response.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising administering at least one secondary composition in a boosting step to said subject wherein the secondary composition contains one or more nucleic acid molecules encoding said plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens, or the secondary composition contains said plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens in peptide or protein form.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one culture filtrate protein antigen of *M. tuberculosis*.

11. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one isolated subunit of a M. tuberculosis protein.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the secondary composition comprises a live attenuated vaccine derived from a *Mycobacterium* species.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the live attenuated vaccine is BCG.

15. (Previously Amended) A method for eliciting an immune response against *M. tuberculosis* in a subject, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a composition containing a plurality of recombinant polynucleotides each comprising a sequence encoding a *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigen operably linked to control sequences suitable for expression in the subject; and

(b) administering the composition to the subject whereby each said antigen is expressed in the subject at sufficient levels to elicit an immune response.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising administering at least one secondary composition in a boosting step to said subject wherein the secondary composition contains nucleic acid molecules encoding said *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigen, or the secondary composition contains said *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigen in peptide or protein form.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one culture filtrate protein antigen of *M. tuberculosis*.

19. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one isolated subunit of a *M. tuberculosis* protein.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the secondary composition comprises a live attenuated vaccine derived from a *Mycobacterium* species.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the live attenuated vaccine is BCG.

23. (Original) The method of claim 7 or claim 15, wherein the administering is transdermal administration.

24. (Original) The method of claim 7 or claim 15, wherein the subject is human.

25. (Previously Amended) A method for eliciting an immune response to *M. tuberculosis* in a subject, said method comprising:

(a) providing a core carrier coated with a vector construct that has inserted therein a recombinant polynucleotide containing a plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens operably linked to control sequences suitable for expression in the subject; and

(b) administering the coated core carrier to the subject using a particle-mediated delivery technique, wherein the *M. tuberculosis* antigens are expressed in the subject at sufficient levels to elicit an immune response.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the core carrier has an average diameter of about 0.5 to about 5 μm and a density sufficient to allow delivery into the subject.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the core carrier is comprised of a metal.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the metal is gold.

29. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein step (b) is repeated.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 25, further comprising administering at least one secondary composition in a boosting step to said subject wherein the secondary composition contains one or more nucleic acid molecules encoding said plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens, or the secondary composition contains said plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens in peptide or protein form.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one culture filtrate protein antigen of *M. tuberculosis*.

33. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one isolated subunit of a *M. tuberculosis* protein.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the secondary composition comprises a live attenuated vaccine derived from a *Mycobacterium* species.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the live attenuated vaccine is BCG.

37. (Previously Amended) A method for eliciting an immune response to *M. tuberculosis* in a subject, said method comprising:

(a) providing a core carrier coated with a composition containing a plurality of recombinant polynucleotides each comprising a sequence encoding a *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigen operably linked to control sequences suitable for expression in the subject; and

(b) administering the coated core carrier to the subject using a particle-mediated delivery technique, wherein the *M. tuberculosis* antigens are expressed in the subject at sufficient levels to elicit an immune response.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the core carrier has an average diameter of about 0.5 to about 5 μm and a density sufficient to allow delivery into the subject.

39. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the core carrier is comprised of a metal.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the metal is gold.

41. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein step (b) is repeated.

42. (Amended) The method of claim 37, further comprising administering at least one secondary composition in a boosting step to said subject

wherein the secondary composition contains one or more nucleic acid molecules encoding said plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens, or the secondary composition contains said plurality of *Mycobacterium-tuberculosis* antigens in peptide or protein form.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one culture filtrate protein antigen of *M. tuberculosis.*

45. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one isolated subunit of a *M. tuberculosis* protein.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the secondary composition comprises a live attenuated vaccine derived from a *Mycobacterium* species.

48. (Original) The method of claim 47, wherein the live attenuated vaccine is BCG.

49. (Original) The method of claim 25 or claim 37, wherein the subject is human.

50. (Withdrawn)

51. (Withdrawn)

52. (Withdrawn)

53. (Withdrawn)

54. (Withdrawn)

55. (Withdrawn)